



**The
Thessaloniki
Model United Nations**

Rules of Procedure
of the
General Assembly



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I. GENERAL

I.1. Scope

These Rules of Procedure shall apply to the forums of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Where one such forum is governed by separate sets of rules, these will appear as an addendum to this document.

I.2. Official Language

English shall be the official and working language of the conference excluding all others. It is to be used in all proceedings, both formal and informal and all documents, including written communication between delegates.

I.3. Representation

Each delegation shall be represented at the meetings of each forum on which it holds a seat by an accredited representative. Accreditation shall consist of a personalised badge to be distributed upon registration.

I.4. Agenda

The provisional agenda of all forums is made public well in advance of the conference. It may be amended in the light of unexpected developments. The Secretary-General may also bring additional issues before a forum for consideration during the conference in case of emerging situations that call for the immediate attention of the world community.

Delegates may propose amendments to the agenda at the start of business. These should be submitted in writing to the Chair and will only be in order if they propose to add an issue to the agenda. If such an amendment passes, the added issue will be debated after the existing issues, provided that there is sufficient time available. However, it is at the Chair's discretion whether to accept it, depending on the competence of the committee to debate the particular issue. The Secretary-General may also be called upon to advise the forum in this aspect.

II. DELEGATIONS

II.1. Delegations

Each delegation is composed of as many delegates as the number of forums the delegation holds a seat on. Each delegation will therefore have only ONE representative in each of those forums. Delegations fall under one of the following categories:

Member delegations: The term refers to sovereign states that have applied for United Nations membership and have been accepted. They are also referred to as “member-states”.

Observer delegations: Delegations that have been granted an observatory status at the United Nations. These may be sovereign states that are not members of the United Nations, regional organisations, non-self-governing territories etc.

UN Bodies/Officials: United Nations agencies, missions, organisations and special rapporteurs may also participate in UN forums.

NGOs: Standing for “Non-Governmental Organisations”. These are organisations founded by citizens that usually focus on specific issues on which they eventually acquire significant expertise which they use to influence decision-making in order to facilitate the achievement of their goals.



Observer delegations, UN bodies and NGOs fall under the more general category of **non-member delegations**.

II.2. Ambassadors

One of the delegates is appointed as Ambassador of the delegation. The Ambassador will be the official representative of the delegation as a whole and is responsible for policy issues and may be held accountable for the conduct of the members of his delegation. The Ambassador may at any time be called upon to provide clarifications on his delegation's position on an issue if such a necessity arises. Furthermore, Ambassadors are required to deliver a statement during the Opening Ceremony.

II.3. Communication between delegations

During formal procedures delegates may only communicate with each other with the aid of written notes that are circulated by the Administrative Staff. All notes must clearly specify the sender and intended receiver under a "FROM" and "TO" heading. The content of the notes should be strictly relevant to the proceedings.

All notes will be screened by the Administrative Staff and messages deviating from the above requirements will not be transmitted. Notes whose content is deemed inappropriate or insulting will be reported to the Chair who may decide upon further action. The Chair reserves the right to suspend note passing at any time.

Delegations are expected to provide their own notepaper.

II.4. Dress code

The character of the conference is strictly formal and, therefore, formal attire is required as expected of diplomats and international staff, meaning suit and tie for gentlemen and a similar degree of formality for ladies (e.g. suits/dresses). Informal clothing (T-shirts, jeans, sneakers etc) will not be allowed. The use of national costumes should also be avoided. The dress code is to be respected throughout the duration of the conference.

II.5. Code of conduct

High standards of conduct are demanded of all participants throughout the duration of the conference. Diplomatic courtesy is to be exercised in formal and informal procedures alike. Respect is to be shown to all fellow delegates, Student Officers, staff and all others attending the conference. Smoking and consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited everywhere in the conference premises. Violation of any of the above rules may lead to temporary or permanent exclusion from specific proceedings or expulsion from the conference as a whole.

During sessions delegates should refrain from engaging in aggressive dialogue, personal smears, insulting or abusive language or gestures of any kind that are not in accordance with the articles and spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (e.g. walk-outs, declarations of war etc) regardless of any existing disagreements. Emphasis should be put on the building of consensus.

Delegates should respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the other Student Officers and staff and should not seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Finally, delegates should obtain the floor from the Chair before speaking and should stand when addressing the House or the Chair. The Chair should always be addressed first. They should also respect the right of the Chair to limit speaking time as well as the number of points of information to



be entertained in the interest of debate and should yield the floor to the Chair when requested to do so. The decisions of the Chair are final and must be respected at all times.

III. STUDENT OFFICERS

III.1. Student Officers

The Student Officers responsible for the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council are the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and their deputies, and the Chairs of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council forums. They are international staff and thus operate in a totally impartial manner in the discharge of their duties which are described below.

III.2. Secretary-General and Deputies

The Secretary-General acts as head of the United Nations organisation. He oversees the smooth operation of the Secretariat and the conference as a whole. He has authority over all participating delegates and Student Officers. The decisions of the Secretary-General are enforced by the other Student Officers and the Secretariat. The Secretary General shall rule on all questions concerning the competence of a particular forum to engage a particular issue or adopt a proposal submitted to it or any substantial matter in general. Such decisions will be final.

III.3. President of the General Assembly and Deputies

The President of the General Assembly oversees the operation of this organ and its forums. He presides over the Opening Ceremony and the plenary session of the General Assembly. He has authority over the delegates and Student Officers of the General Assembly. The President of the General Assembly shall rule on all procedural matters arising in the General Assembly or General Assembly forums. Such decisions will be final.

The Secretary General or President of the General Assembly or their Deputies may at any time make either written or oral statements to the various forums.

III.4. General Powers of the President/Chair

The role of the Presidents/Chairs is to direct all proceedings (both informal procedures and formal discussions) and, subject to these rules, they shall ensure that the rules of procedure are observed and that order is maintained. They will declare the opening and closing of each meeting, put questions to the vote and announce the forum's decisions.

They shall accord the right to speak and have full control on the length of the debate and the speaking time of each delegate in the interest of debate. To this end they may also call upon a delegate to address the forum even if they have not so requested or propose an extension or limitation of the debate time on a given matter or call to order a delegate whose speech is irrelevant to the matter under discussion.

They shall determine the order in which resolutions are debated, rule on all points of order and motions as well as on all other procedural matters that arise. Where necessary, they shall provide the interpretation of the rules.

In addition to these powers, the Presidents/Chairs shall exercise the powers conferred upon them elsewhere in these rules.



IV. OPENING CEREMONY

The work of the conference officially begins with an Opening Ceremony which takes place in the General Assembly Hall. It consists of a speech by the UN Secretary-General and of short statements by all the Ambassadors that are present. The ceremony is conducted by the President of the General Assembly.

IV.1. Opening Speeches

The first delegation to deliver its statement is drawn by lot from among UN member-states. The remaining delegations are given the floor in an alphabetical order thereafter. Statements by non-member delegations are entertained separately in alphabetical order after the full series of speeches from member delegations has been completed.

Statements may not exceed ONE minute (see Sample Opening Speech) and may not be interrupted. Ambassadors will be summoned by the President in groups to take a position nearby the podium. A delegation whose Ambassador is not at the podium at his turn to deliver the speech will forfeit the right to speak and may only be allowed to do so at a later time under extraordinary circumstances and at the discretion of the President.

IV.2. Right of Reply to Opening Speeches

Opening speeches are not delivered continuously. After a specific number of speeches specified by the President, the series is interrupted and time is allowed for Rights of Reply to be entertained. Rights of Reply are short statements whose duration should not exceed thirty seconds. A Right of Reply may only refer to ONE speech in the immediately preceding group of speeches.

A reply to a Right of Reply is out of order. The President may vary the rate of Rights to Reply according to the time available.

V. RULES GOVERNING COMMITTEE WORK

NOTE: The rules of this section shall also apply to the sessions of the General Assembly including the Opening Ceremony with the following exceptions: Subsection V.A. Lobbying and Paragraphs V.B.5 Rights of Reply and V.B.9 Withdrawing a Resolution (not applicable to Opening Ceremony).

V.A. LOBBYING

All General Assembly and ECOSOC forums will begin their work with lobbying. Lobbying is an informal and semiformal procedure which takes up a significant amount of the time at the disposal of these forums.

Purpose of lobbying

The purpose of lobbying is the creation of draft resolutions supported by a number of the forum's members on each of the items of the forum's agenda to be submitted for discussion during the formal sessions. Lobbying provides the opportunity for a quick circulation and comparison of the views of the representatives on the forum and the creation through this process of groups of delegations with a common stance on the issue under consideration in its broader terms. These groups move towards developing resolutions representing their common interests and containing adequate proposals for the achievement of their goals but also such as will be likely to gain support from other delegations as well. In this process, the resolutions delegates have prepared beforehand are only to be seen as the basis for further merging and negotiation.



Lobbying procedure

There will be separate lobbying time for each item on the forum's agenda. A limited number of policy statements will be entertained in order for the main views to be made known to the house and to provide a starting point for the negotiations that will immediately follow. Lobbying is an informal procedure and delegates shall be free to move and engage in discussions with each other. When groups have formed, it will be at the discretion of the Chair to assign a moderator to each group (or to moderate a group himself) in order to facilitate the exchange of views, making sure that all delegates have an equal chance to influence the content of the draft resolution which is being prepared. This will also allow all the delegates to be aware of the line of reasoning behind the specific proposals included in the resolution and thus to be able to support and explain them during formal debate. Each group is advised to assign a "secretary" who will be responsible for keeping track of the changes to the text and will thus be able to quickly provide the final draft to the Chair so that it can be forwarded to the Document Processing Board.

A draft resolution prepared during lobbying will need to be "signed" (i.e. supported) by a minimum number of member delegations that will be announced by the Chair at the beginning of the procedure (approximately one third of the total number of members of the forum). Delegates should note that they may only "sign" (co-submit) one resolution on each item of the agenda. It is therefore crucial to engage as many other delegates as possible and acquire a broad view of the different proposals that are being put forward before settling in a group. However, initial support of a delegate to a particular group is by no means binding, and the delegate may, as discussions proceed, decide to join a different group if he so decides based on his policy.

For a detailed explanation of the resolution submission and processing procedure, please refer to Resolution Processing Guide.

V.B. FORMAL DEBATE

V.B.1. Roll Call – Quorum – Verification of Quorum

At the beginning of each session the Chair shall determine the attendance by calling out the names of all delegations in an alphabetical order. Delegates shall raise their placards and state "Present" when their delegation's name is called out in order to establish their presence. This is defined as a "Roll Call".

A quorum constitutes the majority of the membership of each forum. Proceedings may not commence before a quorum has been established. After being established at the beginning of a meeting, a quorum will be considered present unless specifically challenged. The total number of delegates will be determined by the list of delegations holding a seat on the forum. The appropriate adjustments to the list to account for delegates failing to attend will be made after the first meeting. Delegates may call for a verification of quorum. The Chair will proceed by initiating a Roll Call, unless the motion is deemed to be dilatory, in which case it will be overruled.

The Secretary-General may advise the forum to begin its meeting when more than thirty minutes have elapsed after the scheduled time regardless of the number of delegates present.

V.B.2. Modes of debate

Debate may be conducted in either an open or closed form.

Under the **closed debate** format there is a distinction between time "for" and time "against" the matter under consideration. The delegates wishing to speak in favour of the proposal under debate are



granted permission to speak during time “for” upon the exhaustion of which the floor is given to delegates speaking against the proposal. These two time intervals are equal in length.

In **open debate** the above distinction does not exist and delegates are granted the floor in an order without regard to their support or opposition to the proposal.

All forums commence debate in the closed debate format by default. Open debate is to be used under special circumstances and if the Chair feels that a more direct exchange of views can serve the purpose of reaching a decision or when, for whatever reason, there are serious time constraints.

V.B.3. Debate time

The time limitations set by the Chair at the beginning of debate (time “for” and “against” or open debate time) are meant to include only speeches and answers to Points of Information. Time taken for other points or motions or any other interruptions does not count towards the total debate time.

At the beginning of debate the Chair also sets the maximum time that will be dedicated to the debate of the specific resolution or amendment in total, i.e. including speeches, all points and motions, answers to Points of Information but not voting procedures. This is called the guillotine time. Concerning amendments, the Chair may set the debate “time” in terms of the number of speakers that will be entertained “for” and “against” the amendment, rather than set an actual time limit.

V.B.4. Amendments to Resolutions

Amendments are proposed alterations to the text of a draft resolution. They must be submitted to the Chair during formal debate on an Amendment Sheet of the required format (see Sample Amendment). The Chair will verify that the amendment is in order according to the guidelines provided in these rules. It is at the Chair’s discretion to decide which amendments will be debated, at what time and in what order. The content of each debated amendment is either read out by the Chair or displayed on a screen/board.

An amendment may only propose a single alteration to one clause. Possible alterations include the addition or deletion of a clause or the replacement of a word or sentence.

Delegates should ensure that all submitted amendments are tidy and easily legible, while the exact part of the text affected by the amendment and the nature of the proposed alteration (e.g. add, strike, insert, replace etc.) should be stated clearly, concisely and unequivocally.

A separate amendment sheet must be used for each amendment or amendment to the amendment.

An amendment is debated with the same procedure as concerns resolutions. However, amendments are only discussed in closed debate. It will be up to the Chair to determine the number of speakers for and against the amendment and the guillotine time depending on the amendment’s scope and importance and respecting time constraints. Delegates are advised to submit amendments as early on as possible in order to facilitate the procedure.

Votes on amendments are considered to be substantial in nature and therefore, voting rights are reserved to member delegations and abstentions are allowed.

Amendment to the amendment

Alterations to an amendment may also be proposed. This is called an amendment to the amendment. This second-order must be submitted before a vote has been taken on the original amendment. It is



subject to the same guidelines concerning its format and content. Upon its submission, debate on the original amendment ceases and debate begins on the amendment to the amendment, following a vote.

When the second-order amendment passes, debate on the original amendment may or may not resume.

- Debate of the original amendment IS RESUMED if the amendment of the amendment has only altered one of the original elements of the amendment. Example: The amendment proposes to add the clause: “Requests that the Secretary General initiate negotiations”. A second-order amendment is adopted replacing “Secretary General” with “High Commissioner for Refugees”. Debate needs to resume on the original amendment because the forum has not yet discussed whether to approve the proposed action (initiation of negotiations).

- Debate of the original amendment IS NOT RESUMED if the amendment to the amendment has altered it in its entirety. Example: The amendment proposes to add the clause: “Endorses the proposals of the Secretary General”. A second-order amendment is adopted replacing “Secretary General” with “High Commissioner for Refugees”. It is obviously unnecessary to resume debate on the original amendment.

NOTE: The forum may wish to adopt a combination of the two proposals. This is possible by failing the specific amendment to the amendment and submit a new one, like “Endorses the proposals of the Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Refugees”.

If the second-order amendment fails, the forum will resume debate on the original amendment.

A third-order amendment (amendment to the amendment to the amendment) is highly unlikely to be necessary considering the average length of first- and second-order amendments and will not be accepted by the Chair if it is deemed trivial in scope.

Non-substantial amendments

Amendments referring to errors in grammar, spelling or formatting will be adopted without a vote, at the discretion of the Chair. Such amendments must also be submitted in writing. Such amendments may also be proposed by the Chair.

V.B.5. Right of Reply

A delegate may request a Right of Reply in the event that another delegate has made a comment against his personal or national integrity. It is at the Chair’s discretion whether to recognise the Right of Reply. A Right of Reply may not arise from disagreement with the actual content of a speech. Replies to Rights of Reply are out of order. A Right of Reply shall not exceed thirty seconds and should itself avoid any insulting language or argumentation.

V.B.6. Reconsideration

A resolution on which a vote has been taken may be reconsidered by the passing (two-thirds majority) of a motion to allow reconsideration after all other business has been dealt with by the forum.

V.B.7. Tabling

A forum may decide to temporarily suspend debate on a resolution and take up other items of business. A two-thirds majority is needed for a motion to table or to take from the table to pass. A motion to take from the table must be carried with a two-thirds majority in order for debate on the tabled proposal to resume. A second resolution may not be tabled before the tabled resolution has been taken from the table and dealt with.



V.B.8. Yielding the Floor to Other Delegations

A delegate who has obtained the floor from the Chair may yield the floor to another delegate after his speech if this right is accorded to him by the Chair. It will not be in order for the delegate to whom the floor is yielded to yield the floor to a third delegate in his turn. The floor must be yielded to the Chair.

V.B.9. Withdrawing a Resolution

A resolution may be withdrawn:

- a. by unanimous decision of all the submitting countries before debate has started. The Chair must receive written notification;
- b. by unanimous consent of the whole forum;
- c. by the passing of a motion to permit withdrawal. This is in order at any time before the resolution is put to the vote. The motion may be moved by any delegate must be supported by all the submitters in order for it to be carried. The vote on this motion will be taken by roll-call.

V.B.10. Withdrawing an Amendment

An amendment may be withdrawn by the submitter before debate on it has started. The Chair should be notified of the withdrawal in writing as early on as possible.

V.B.11. Approaching the Chair

A delegate may request permission to approach the Chair to discuss an exceptionally delicate matter.

V.B.12. Caucus of the Chairs

The Chairs reserve the right to halt all procedures for 30 seconds in order to discuss a matter that has arisen and which requires an immediate decision.

V.B.13. Voting

Voting rights on substantial issues is reserved to UN member states. Non-member delegations shall have the right to vote on procedural matters only. A representative casts his delegation's vote by raising his placard at the appropriate time, as instructed by the Chair. A delegate may vote For, Against or Abstain on substantial matters. No abstentions are allowed in procedural votes. Delegates who are missing from the room at the time voting commences, forfeit their voting right for the specific proposal/motion. The submitters of a resolution may not vote against it, but they may abstain. At the discretion of the Chair, and in order to eliminate uncertainties in the counting of the votes, the Chair may institute a roll-call vote in which each member's name is called in turn and its vote is recorded. A roll-call vote may also be requested by a delegate.

In the event of a very close result during voting by placards, the Chair may decide to repeat a vote in the roll-call format to ensure that the true will of the forum emerges from the voting procedure.

Conduct during Voting After voting procedures have commenced, all guests will be asked to leave the room, the doors will be sealed, note passing will be suspended and no interruptions will be allowed except for points of order or points of parliamentary enquiry connected with the actual conduct of the voting and points of personal privilege.

Explanation of Vote After the completion of voting, one speaker of each side (in favour, against, abstention) may be allowed to explain his vote at the discretion of the Chair.

Substantial and procedural issues A substantial issue is one that pertains to the substance of an issue under discussion, or to the content of a document being debated (e.g. resolutions, amendments to resolutions) as opposed to procedural matters that refer to the conduct of business.



Majority – Abstentions The outcome of a vote is positive when the proposal under consideration is voted in favour of by a majority of members present and voting (i.e. the delegations that are present during voting procedures and who cast a positive or negative vote as opposed to abstaining). This means that when the vote is tied, the proposal fails and that abstentions do not count either for or against the adoption of a proposal. The number of delegations abstaining is also recorded. Delegations failing to vote for whatever reason are considered to be abstaining.

V.B.14. Points

Points of debate may not interrupt a speaker or the Chair with the sole exception of a point of personal privilege referring to audibility. All other points are entertained by the Chair only when the speaker has finished his speech and yielded the floor either to points of information, to another delegate, or to the Chair or when the Chair requests that any existing points be stated. Points do not require a second, they are not debatable and are not voted upon.

A delegate indicates his wish to state a point by raising his placard and stating the nature of the point. If recognised by the Chair, the delegate must then rise and proceed to the statement of his point.

A Point of Personal Privilege refers to the comfort and well-being of the delegate and to conditions that impair the delegate's ability to fully participate in the proceedings. It may only interrupt a speaker if it pertains to the audibility of a speech.

A Point of Order refers to procedural issues. A delegate may rise to a point of order when he believes that the proper procedure is not being followed. The Chair shall rule on such a point immediately in accordance with the rules of procedure and may rule out of order those points which are dilatory or improper. When rising to such a point, delegate may not comment on the substance of the topic under discussion.

A Point of Information may be directed to the speaker who has the floor if he has indicated that he is open to such points or to the Chair. Points of information to speakers are formulated as questions. However, a short introductory sentence is permitted. It will not be in order for a delegate to ask two consecutive questions as a single point. When directed to the Chair, a point of information refers to a substantial issue on which the delegate wishes to be informed and does not have to be formulated as a question.

A Point of Parliamentary Enquiry is a question directed to the Chair concerning the rules of procedure in general or their application in a particular circumstance or other procedural matters.

V.B.15. Motions

Motions are proposals for specific procedural actions to be taken by the forum. Motions may not interrupt a speaker and are entertained by the Chair only when the speaker has finished his speech and yielded the floor either to points of information, to another delegate, or to the Chair or when the Chair requests that any existing motions be stated.

Motions may be moved by the Chair or a delegate and require a second. All motions must be recognised by the Chair. A delegate puts forward a motion by raising his placard and stating the nature of the motion. The motion may be objected to. It is at the Chair's discretion whether to accept or overrule a motion, or to put it to a vote. The Chair especially reserves the right to overrule a specific motion when he feels that it is not aiming to produce constructive debate but rather to obstruct the proceedings. Motions are not debatable.



A **Motion to Extend Debate Time** calls for the allocation of additional debate time after the predetermined time has expired. The motion may also specify the amount of time requested.

A **Motion to Lay on the Table (or to Table)** calls for the forum to suspend consideration of a resolution and proceed to dealing with a different resolution.

A **Motion to Take from the Table** is used to resume debate on a resolution that has been previously tabled. However, this motion may not be proposed before the next resolution has been dealt with.

A **Motion to Move to Open/Closed Debate** calls for the debate mode to be switched from closed/open debate to open/closed debate.

A **Motion to Permit Withdrawal of a Resolution** calls for the withdrawal of the resolution that is being debated. While this motion can be moved by any delegate, all of the submitting delegations must support it in order for it to be carried. The vote on this motion will be taken by roll-call.

A **Motion to Move to Voting Procedures** calls for the closure of debate and for a vote to be taken on the amendment/ resolution pending.

A **Motion to Vote by Roll-Call** calls for the upcoming voting procedure to be conducted by roll-call.

A **Motion to Reconsider** calls for a resolution that has already been voted upon to be reconsidered and voted upon once again.

A **Motion to Verify the Quorum** calls for a roll-call to be conducted in order for the actual number of delegations present to be ascertained.

A **Motion to Recess** calls for a small intermission, which does not close the meeting. After the recess business will immediately be resumed at exactly the point where it had stopped.

If put to a vote, motions require the following majorities in order to be carried:

Motion to:	Vote required:
1. Extend debate time	SIMPLE MAJORITY
2. (Lay on the) Table	2/3 MAJORITY
3. Take from the table	2/3 MAJORITY
4. Move to open / closed debate	2/3 MAJORITY
5. Permit Withdrawal of the Resolution	SIMPLE MAJORITY
6. Move to voting procedures	SIMPLE MAJORITY
7. Vote by Roll-Call	SIMPLE MAJORITY
8. Reconsider	2/3 MAJORITY
9. Verify the quorum	SIMPLE MAJORITY
10. Recess	SIMPLE MAJORITY



APPENDIX

SAMPLE AMENDMENT

FORUM: *Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee*
QUESTION OF: *Protection of civil rights and fundamental freedoms while combating terrorism*
RESOLUTION NUMBER: *SHC/B/1*
AMENDMENT SUBMITTED BY: *India*
PROPOSED AMENDMENT (State clearly the line(s) and the clause(s) to be amended and the nature of the amendment.):

To strike out in line 36 (operative clause 4) the words:

“present to the Committee the operation of existing mechanisms”

and insert the words: “prepare a report on the progress of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC);”, so that the clause will read:

“Requests that the Secretary-General prepare a report on the progress of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC);”

SAMPLE OPENING SPEECH

Please note that this speech is a mere suggestion (and too general!!!). Your speeches should be more substantial and display a deeper knowledge of the topics that are being addressed. While the content and style may vary significantly, the rules of diplomatic courtesy should be a constant guide while preparing the speech. Inflammatory, insulting or otherwise inappropriate speeches will be immediately be called out of order by the President of the General Assembly.

Your Excellency the Secretary-General, Mr/Madam President, Honourable delegates,

It is more than 60 years since 55 states agreed to create the ultimate international forum, a family that over the years increased in size to take in the whole international community: the United Nations.

Yet, we feel troubled that the agenda of this organisation, meant to resolve conflicts and address the pressing problems of humanity, still contains issues that were included in it decades ago. Nuclear proliferation. The Middle East crisis. An almost never-ending series of human rights violations. And, above all, continuing conflicts which claim the lives and destroy the livelihoods of millions of people.

New issues also arise, like climate change and its repercussions. We must act in order to make sure they will not be debated indefinitely. Debate is necessary. But it is a poor substitute to positive action. Let us, therefore, engage in finding and implementing solutions!

Thank you for your kind attention.

I yield the floor to the President.